

## **Monitoring of *Drosophila suzukii* population in Kartli region**

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### **Annotation**

Spotted-wing drosophila, *Drosophila suzukii*, is one of the most important invasive pests of fruit and wine production worldwide. This species feeds on cherry, raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, strawberry, peach, plums, grape, and other soft fruits. It causes significant damage because, unlike most other *Drosophila* species, it oviposits and feeds on healthy fruits. *Drosophila suzukii* is native to East Asia and has been rapidly spreading through Europe, where it is considered a quarantine pest, since 2008. The presence of the Spotted Winged *Drosophila* in Georgia was confirmed in 2018, however, as of now, the damage caused by it is not large-scale. Nevertheless, in order to assess the future risks and predict the area of spread of the pest, it is necessary to carry out monitoring in a permanent mode. This study aimed to study the presence and distribution of the Spotted Wing *Drosophila* in the Kartli region. Pheromone traps were used for local monitoring. The research was carried out during May - October 2022, in four different locations of Kartli (Kvenatkosa, Agara, Apnis, Skra), traps were installed in all four locations, in cherry and strawberry plantations. The mentioned study confirmed the presence and population growth of the spotted wing *Drosophila* in the Kartli region, but based on the results we can say that the economic damage caused by the pest is not alarming, however, due to the dangers of its spread in the future, it is absolutely necessary to continue monitoring.

